

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, IR, US

SUBJECT: IRANIAN STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS

REF: (A) TEHRAN 8730, (B) TEHRAN 8931

1. IRANIAN STUDENT ACTIVITIES IN US HAVE RECEIVED VERY LITTLE RECENT ATTENTION IN US PRESS. WE ARE, FOR EXAMPLE, UNAWARE OF ANY STORIES IN NATIONAL PRESS ON THREE RECENT IRANIAN STUDENT CONGRESSES (REFTEL A).
 2. LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS TICKER ITEM REFERRED TO IN REFTEL B MAY RECEIVE SOME COVERAGE IN AREA CONCERNED, BUT WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT WAS ACTUALLY CARRIED IN JEFFERSON CITY AREA.
 3. FACT IS, HOWEVER, TICKER REPORT SEEMS TO HAVE SCRAMBLED EVENTS IN TWO RELATED STUDENT DEVELOPMENTS WHICH TOOK PLACE OVER PERIOD OF ALMOST A YEAR. EVENTS BEGAN OCTOBER 5, 1975,
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WHEN SMALL GROUP PRO-SHAH STUDENTS MET IN JEFFERSON CITY

CHURCH AND SOME 40 OTHERS FROM IRANIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION (ISA) GATHERED OUTSIDE CHURCH. LATTER CHANTED ANTI-SHAH SLOGANS, BROKE A WINDOW AND GENERALLY DISRUPTED MEETING

INSIDE. CHURCH'S MINISTER SIGNED TRESPASSING COMPLAINT AGAINST ISA GROUP AND THEN POLICE TWICE ASKED THEM TO LEAVE.

4. REFUSING TO LEAVE, ISA GROUP NEXT BEGAN SIT-IN ON CHURCH PROPERTY. ONCE MORE POLICE REQUESTED THEY LEAVE. AFTER THIRD STUDENT REFUSAL, POLICE ARRESTED TWO ISA LEADERS. ADDITIONAL 24 STUDENTS VOLUNTEERED TO BE TAKEN TO POLICE STATION. OF THOSE 26, MOST CAME FROM LINCOLN UNIVERSITY. THEY WERE ALL INITIALLY JAILED AFTER FAILURE TO PAY BOND OF 25 DOLLARS EACH. WE DO NOT YET HAVE INFORMATION ON FINAL OUTCOME OF CHARGES AGAINST THAT GROUP, BUT HAVE REQUESTED IT.

5. MARCH ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1976, IN JEFFERSON CITY INVOLVED 80 MASKED MARCHERS CARRYING SIGNS WHICH CLAIMED US INVOLVEMENT IN SHAH'S REGIME AND MADE GENERAL ANTI-SHAH COMMENTS. SIGNS ALSO ALLEGED POLICE HARRASSMENT OF ISA STUDENTS IN OCTOBER 1975 INCIDENT. THIS MARCH BROKE UP WITHOUT INCIDENT, VIOLENCE OR ARRESTS. ROBINSON

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